

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 SAJ-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 /129 W

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R 301442Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WAEHDC 1337

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0560

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, JO

SUBJ: PRESS STORIES ON ISRAEL-JORDAN CONTACTS

1. PRESS STORIES CONCERNING RECENT ISRAELI-JORDANIAN CONTACTS  
AND GOVT DENIALS PERSIST OVER LAST FEW DAYS.

2. HAARETZ JAN 24 ATTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO OPPOSITION SOURCES  
SUGGESTED THAT DEPTY PRIMIN ALLON  
MAY HAVE HELD MEETINGS WITH  
KING HUSSEIN. ON SAME DAY, DAVAR REPORTED THAT HIGH LEVEL  
CONTACTS RECENTLY HAD BEEN HELD BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN,  
WHILE YEDIOT AHARONOT CARRIED DENIALS BY "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES."

3. IN HAARETZ JAN 28, COMMENTATOR DAN MARGALIT SPECULATED  
THAT WEAK DENIALS FROM JERUSALEM ABOUT ISRAEL-JORDAN CONTACTS  
OVER SEPARATION OF FORCES STRENGTHENED VIEW THAT NEGOTIA-  
TIONS ARE IN FULL SWING. HE NOTED AS "NO COINCIDENCE" THAT LIKUD  
LEADER MENAHEM BEGIN IN KNESSET SPEECH WARNED AGAINST  
WITHDRAWALS ON JORDANIAN FRONT AND SECRET DIPLOMACY.  
BEGIN NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN MEMBER OF GOVT WHEN FIRST  
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CONTACTS WITH HUSSEIN HAD BEEN MADE, AND HE KNOWS HOW

FAR GOVT CAN GO WITH PLANS BEFORE BRINGING THEM TO KNESSET FOR APPROVAL.

4. HAARETZ JAN 29 REPORTED STORY FILED FROM CYKPRUS BY JAY BUSHINSKY, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT RESIDENT IN ISRAEL, ON MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLON WITH KING HUSSEIN ON ABOUT JAN 19 IN AQABA, WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER PARTICIPATING OR PRESENT IN THE VICINITY. SIMILAR STORY, QUOTING BRITISH NEWSPAPER, IS CARRIED IN AFTERNOON PRESS.

5. DENIAL OF GOI CONTACTS WITH JORDAN BY MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ISRAEL GALILI CARRIED BY HAARETZ ALONGSIDE REPORT ON RUMORED MEETING. GALILI REPORTEDLY TOLD NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN NOR WILL THERE BE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN EXCEPT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

6. HAARETZ JAN 30 CONTINUED SPECULATION ON ISRAEL-JORDAN CONTACTS WITH STORY BASED ON WEST BANK SOURCES DENYING RECENT ALLON-HUSSEIN CONTACT, ALLEGING JORDAN-ISRAEL UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WILL NOT BE SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT ALONG LINES OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAEL AGREEMENT AND CLAIMING THAT JOINT MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC WORKING GROUPS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN MARCH OR APRIL.

7. COMMENT: SPECULATION RE POSSIBLE SECRET JORDAN-ISRAEL CONTACTS TOUCHES ON EXTREMELY SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUE. EVEN SUSPICIONS OF TENTATIVE UNDERSTANDING REGARDING FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS ON JORDAN WEST BANK COULD IGNITE HEATED DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTROVERSY SINCE LIKUD (OR AT LEAST PARTS THEREOF) AND NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY ARE OPPOSED TO RETURN OF WEST BANK. SPATE OF RUMORS ON ISRAEL-JORDAN CONTACTS MAY ALSO MAKE MORE DIFFICULT TASK OF MRS. MEIR INFORMING NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT.  
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